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## [Book Review of] *Our Name Is Peter* by Sean O'Reilly

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depression, or into one who futilely tries to affirm himself through power (and other means).

If Sorensen had not ruled out in an earlier chapter a causal relation between deprivation and alcoholics — “even though information regarding deprivation in early infantile relations was not collected in this study,” p. 57 — his book could have made a much greater contribution to our understanding of the alcoholic priest than it will make with the meager sociological findings mentioned at the beginning of this review.

This reviewer wonders why Sorensen makes no reference to such well-known treatment centers for alcoholic priests as Guest House and Southtown (Canada). Eighteen pages of reference works give no indication that he has attempted to check his findings against data officials at these centers might have been willing to discuss with him. If he has, no reason is given for not including them in this book.

— Conrad W. Baars, M.D.

## *Our Name Is Peter*

Sean O'Reilly

*Franciscan Herald Press, 1434 W. 51st St., Chicago, Ill. 60609, 1977. 143 pp., \$5.95.*

This book is more than a panegyric to Paul VI although the author is quite obviously very impressed with his standing in the papal galaxy. Beyond the personality of Pope Paul, however, the book resorts to Vatican II documents to develop with a lucid and persuasive style the true hierarchical structure of the Church. Essential to this structure is the Vicar of Christ at its head with his teaching authority extended by the bishops who sit in apostolic succession.

Unfortunately, we need to be reminded of the authenticity of this view of the Church in an age characterized by a concerted attack on the authority of the Magisterium from both without and within the Church.

As Dr. O'Reilly points out, it was from the Second Vatican Council and particularly from *Lumen Gentium*, that a complete and integral vision of the people of God emerged. Contrary to the allegations of revisionist historians and professional dissenters, the Vatican II vision of the place of the papacy was an extension of the traditional view rather than a de-emphasis of the pope's teaching role.

To those who might have assumed that Paul VI was isolated from the epochal struggle within the Roman Catholic Church, Dr. O'Reilly has assembled an extremely impressive collection of his statements and writings. Even for one who is privy to the diocesan and in-depth Catholic press, these writings are truly a revelation. Cogent and persuasive responses to current controversies are found on almost every page, in direct quotation.

Especially provocative in Dr. O'Reilly's discussion of what it means to be a Christian is his description of a Christian as one *who is at war*. Many have decried the siege mentality, but the author reminds us of our obligation to struggle to uphold the truth and to combat error wherever it threatens the survival of the truth. The intensity of Dr. O'Reilly's faith, which shines forth so vividly on these pages, has led him to accept this role of combatant and *defensor fidei* on numerous occasions. Despite the fierceness of his convictions, he has shown himself capable of charity to those with whom he disagrees. In his apologetics and his argumentation, he has demonstrated the neurologist's propensity toward deduction and syllogistic reasoning. Again and again, he develops on these pages why he has accepted the conscription to write this book as a continuation of a necessary struggle.

As the author points out, it is not possible to strengthen the Church by attack-

ing its Magisterium for the Church is not merely a spiritual community, but a visible society as well. As Pope Paul said, "between Christ and Christians stands a teaching power." The Protestant Reformation attempted to exclude this go-between but for those who remain in communion with Rome, Dr. O'Reilly's call for renewed dedication to the Magisterium is a welcome message indeed.

— Eugene F. Diamond, M.D.

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## ***The Demographic Explosion— The Latin American Experience***

Benjamin Viel, M.D.

*Irvington Publishers, Inc., Halsted Press Div., John Wiley and Sons, 605 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016, 1976. Translated & updated by James Walls. xiv + 250 pp.*

The author of this challenging volume is a specialist in preventive medicine and epidemiology, formerly director of the University of Chile Medical School, and more recently executive director of the Western Hemisphere Region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. He is a pioneer of family planning in Chile. The book bears the dedication: "To my grandchildren Cecelia, Benjamin and Paula. In hopes that the world in which they will live will suffer less tension and less sorrow." The author unabashedly espouses the planned parenthood philosophy. The Catholic reader will thus have many reservations about the contents of this volume. Nevertheless, the appearance of a book such as this intensifies, even more acutely, for us, Pius XII's challenge, repeated by John XXIII and Paul VI, "to men of science . . . to give a secure foundation to a regulation of births based on the observance of natural rhythms" (*Humanae Vitae*, 24).

The work is divided into three parts and 11 chapters, as follows: Part I, Generalities, with six chapters on the biological, numerical, economic, social, and medical problems, and on Malthusianism. Part II, Family Planning, is divided into four chapters on history, abortion, contraception, and factors opposed to contraceptive programs. Part III, which constitutes a single chapter, deals with the demographic problem in Latin America.

Chapter 1 traces from anthropology the precarious beginnings on the African veldt of the human species, which survived only by intelligence and eventually "gained, century after century, a small excess of births over deaths, which suggested . . . a timorous increase." Chapter 2 traces the growth of humankind, whose doubling time has shrunk from 1600 years (250 to 500 million) in the first 16 centuries of the Christian era to a scant 35 years (2 to 4 billion) in mid-20th century. He points to Latin America with a 1975 population of 324 million and an annual growth rate of 2.7 percent (doubling time 26 years) as having the most acute demographic problem on the globe with Africa (400 million, d.t. 27 years) and Asia (2,255 million, d.t. 33 years) as close seconds. Chapter 3 discusses the attendant economic problems including water, energy, and food, points to the paradox of the highest birth rates in the least developed countries and foresees that the world will go on "with 2/3ds of its population in conditions of underdevelopment." Chapter 4 reviews the social evolution of family life, freedom, work and concludes that "customs, morality and laws cannot be the same in a world of 1,000 millions as in one of 4,000 millions." Chapter 5, on the medical